

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
April 15, 2021; 8:30 AM
Via Webex – phone & online

Meeting Minutes

The following members/proxies were present: Paul Gilbody (Chair); Janice Ryan Weekes; Joshua Froimson; Colleen Lanza; Luis Pedraja; Kevin Kuros; Libis Bueno; Rick Laferriere; Jil Wonoski; Robin Hooper; Dean Messier; Ethan Brown; Edward Bartkiewicz; Alex Guardiola (proxy for Tim Murray); Ellen Spencer; Joyce Clemence; Maegan McCaffrey (proxy for Karen Koller);

Guests/Staff: J. Turgeon (MCRWB); Vivianna Abreu-Hernandez; Tonja Mettlach

Call to Order, Announcement of Quorum & Note of Conflict of Interest: P. Gilbody called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM, and asked the members if anyone wished to note any conflicts of interest on the agenda. No conflicts were noted. P. Gilbody then welcomed all the attendees and thanked them for their attendance. J. Turgeon then reviewed the attendance log.

Approval of the Jan 15, 2021 MCRWB Meeting Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by J. Clemence and second by E. Bartkiewicz.

P. Gilbody then turned the agenda over to the MCRWB Director of Youth Services, Ed Gagne, who reviewed the recommendations from the Youth Workforce Investment Council to approve renewal of the existing WIOA Youth vendor contracts for FY 22. After reviewing the recommendation memo, a motion was made by D. Messier and seconded by A. Guardiola to approve the recommendation to renew the existing WIOA Youth vendor contracts for FY 22. The vote passed unanimously.

P. Gilbody then introduced our guest speaker, Tonja Mettlach, who is the Executive Director of the MA Workforce Association. T. Mettlach then gave an overview of the MWA and a presentation regarding the recently passed federal American Rescue Plan and who it relates to career development efforts and services available in Massachusetts.

J. Turgeon then gave an update on Board programs and activities, including the YouthWorks Year Round and Summer jobs programs, the regional blueprint implementation (and priority sector workforce consortia), as well as new grant projects, the career center certification and monitoring effort, and the career center operator selection status.

J. Weekes then gave the Board an update regarding career center services and staffing, noting some upcoming events and several staff positions in process of being filled.

J. Turgeon then reviewed upcoming events and reminded members that they can access up to date information regarding area training opportunities by logging in to the MCRWB website at www.masshirecentral.com. This includes current trainings in manufacturing, management, CDL drivers, healthcare, and IT help desk support.

The members were then invited to make announcements and no member announcements were made, and upon a motion, second, and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am.

P. Gilbody thanked all for their attendance.

The next MCRWB full board meeting is Thursday, July 15, 2021 (Webex virtual, unless otherwise announced)

Respectfully drafted by, J. Turgeon; MCRWB